

## Coalition for Public Access forms Steering Committee, continues to work toward maintaing public access

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Submitted Story

ADVERTISEMENT The Coalition for Public Access (CPA), a grassroots group of citizens largely from Lyon and Mineral Counties, has formed an Ad Hoc Steering Committee to address ongoing activities by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Wilderness Project (NWP), and other wilderness advocacy groups

The CPA was formed last February in opposition to a wilderness proposal by the Nevada Wilderness Project (NWP) and others; and at the time, Lyon, Mineral and Esmeralda Counties were all facing Lands Bills in which the NWP was proposing nearly 1.4 million acres of open public land be designated as wilderness.

With over 1500 members, the CPA organized a groundswell response that, in part, sparked decisive action by the County Commissioners in all three counties, where resolutions were passed opposing any new Wilderness designations and Lands Bills at this time.

CPA Steering Committee members include Emery Thran, Sue Silver, Phil Tucker, Larry Simmons, Jim Kinninger, Wade Harlan, Mike Rosachi, and Don Smith; and the committee is working to build relationships with various federal agencies to learn of their activities relating to management of public lands and the processes through which the public is permitted to participate, pending changes to current management policy.

CPA believes that by working with these agencies and using their processes, the organization CPA will have a voice; and at the same time, the committee is establishing working relationships with state and national organizations that are also committed to keeping public lands open and hopes to learn from those groups' experiences and cooperate jointly on legislation to protect access to the public lands in Nevada.

The CPA is also working with organizations and agencies to promote and ensure responsible use of public lands, with one example being a project to better educate the users of Wilson Canyon in Lyon County regarding the ethical and legal use of Forest Service and BLM managed lands, as well as restoring damaged lands and barriers.

Anyone wishing to become an active volunteer or who wants more information about CPA's activities, should visit the CPA website at [www.cfpa-nv.org](http://www.cfpa-nv.org) or send an email message to [cpa@cfpa-nv.org](mailto:cpa@cfpa-nv.org).